

COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WEST SUFFOLK.

R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1945.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of
Cosford in the County of West Suffolk for the
year ending 31st December, 1945.

Public Health Offices,
8, Whiting Street,
Bury St. Edmund's.

October, 1946.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Cosford.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable
consideration my tenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health,
being that for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) Medical - One part-time Medical Officer of Health,
Robert H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy.,
D.P.H. (Durham). Cert. Mental Deficiency
and Allied Subjects (London), appointed in 1936.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but
holds in addition the following appointments:- Medical
Officer of Health, Newmarket U.D.C., Mildenhall R.D.C.,
Thedwastre R.D.C., and Thingoe R.D.C. Prior to
October 1st, 1945, this Officer also acted as Assistant
Medical Officer of Health, West Suffolk County Council,
Venereal Diseases Officer, West Suffolk, County Civil
Defence Ambulance Officer, West Suffolk, but from that
date his services were reserved for the five District
Councils, and subsequently separate office accommodation
was provided.

- (b) Others - One Sanitary Inspector, W.M. Taylor, Cert.R.S.I.,
Meat and Other Foods Certificate, R.S.I.,
appointed in 1939, also Building Surveyor,
Petroleum and Explosives Officer.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. <u>GENERAL STATISTICS.</u>	Area	48,530 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year		9,014
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book		3,098
Rateable Value		£26,521
Sum represented by a Penny Rate		£116

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	142	73	69
Illegitimate	24	12	12
<u>Stillbirths.</u>			
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

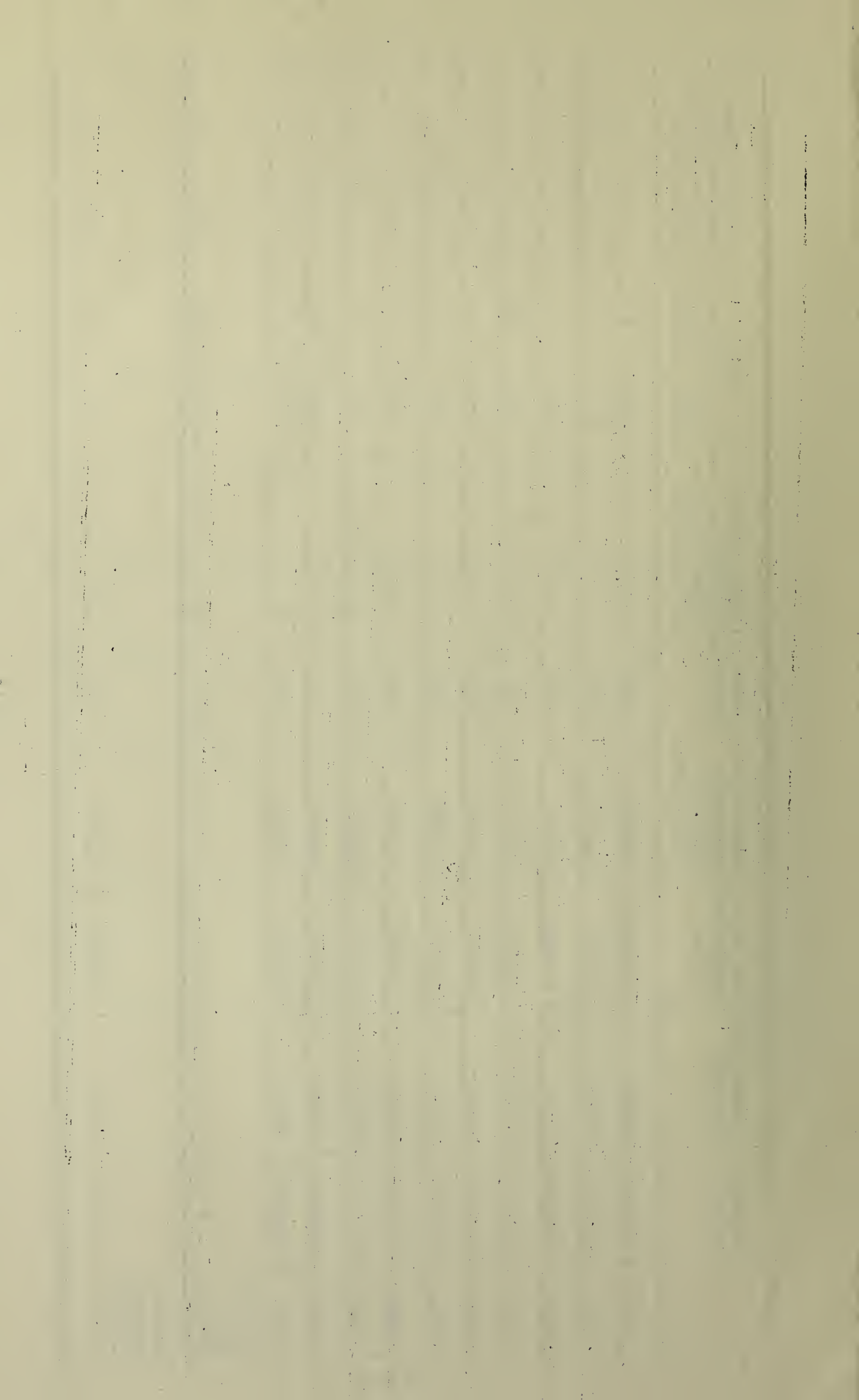
During the year 4 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, (1 male, 1 female legitimate, 1 male, 1 female illegitimate). No death from Maternal Causes (Headings 29 and 30) 22 deaths from Cancer, no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough, or from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) were recorded.

On page 3 is a table giving some statistics for the decade from 1936 to 1945, during which I have reported as Medical Officer of Health. From this table have been prepared the decade average figures given below which allow comparison with this period and the year 1945. Trends from 1936 to 1945 which may be noted are:-

Rateable Value increased £3311 = Increase of £143 per thousand pounds
Penny Rate Product " £ 11 = " " £105 " " "
Inhabited Houses " 391 = " " 144 " " houses
Population decreased 77 = Decrease " 8 " " persons
Average number of persons per house decreased 0.5, the present figure being 2.9 persons per house.

	<u>Cosford.</u>		<u>England & Wales.</u>
	<u>Decade.</u>		
	<u>Average.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1945.</u>
<u>Birth Rate.</u>	15.1	18.4	16.1
<u>Rate of Illegitimate births per 1000</u>			
legitimate births.	54	169	-
<u>Stillbirth Rate per 1000</u>			
total (live & stillbirths).	27.9	5.6	-
<u>Death Rate per 1000</u>			
resident population.	14.7	14.0	11.4
<u>Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.</u>			
All Infants per 1000			
live births.	33.0	24.1	46
Legitimate Infants per			
1000 legitimate births.	33.3	14.1	
Illegitimate Infants			
per 1000 illegitimate			
births.	27.4	83.3	

	Rateable Value.	Penny Rate Product.	No. of inhabited houses.	Registrar-General's Estimate Population.	Total Deaths.	Deaths under 1 year.		Births.		Stillbirths.	
						Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.
1936.	£23,210.	£105.	2,707	9,091	126	4	-	131	9	3	-
1937.	£23,605.	£107.	2,923	8,912	145	4	-	105	4	5	1
1938.	£24,701.	£112.	2,942	8,941	132	4	-	114	4	5	-
1939.	£25,175.	£113.	2,975	9,230	156	5	-	128	3	1	-
1940.	£25,480.	£116.	3,107	9,956	147	6	-	125	2	2	1
1941.	£25,425.	£116.	3,102	10,790	160	5	-	158	2	6	-
1942.	£25,559.	£120.	3,098	9,748	126	6	-	143	6	6	-
1943.	£33,218.	£124.	3,090	9,441	129	4	-	148	4	4	1
1944.	£26,240.	£120.	3,096	9,467	145	5	-	159	15	5	-
1945.	£26,521.	£116.	3,098	9,014	126	2	2	142	24	1	-
TOTALS FOR DECADE.	-	-	-	-	1,392	45	2	1,353	73	38	3
ANNUAL AVERAGE DURING DECADE.	£25,911.	£115.	3,014	9,459	139	4.5	0.2	135	7.3	3.8	0.3



This table gives the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar-General's figures. The deaths are classified under the headings given in the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths, 1938.

Heading	CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond District.															
		Under 1 year.		1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 45		45 and under 65		65 and upwards		TOTAL = Registrar General's figures.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
9.	Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (m)uterus (f)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	-
15.	Cancer of Breast.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	4	4	5	8
17.	Diabetes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	4	5	4
19.	Heart Disease.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	16	12	19	15
20.	Other diseases of Circulatory System.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	1
21.	Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	4	2
22.	Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	4
23.	Other respiratory diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	1
24.	Ulceration of the stomach or duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	5	-
28.	Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	3	3	4
31.	Premature Births.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
32.	Congenital malformations birth injury, infantile disease.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
33.	Suicide.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
35.	Other Violent Causes.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
36.	All Other Causes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	8	6	9	7
TOTAL: Males		2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	15	-	49	-	68	-
Females		-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	9	-	41	-	-	58

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge continued to provide these facilities throughout 1945. This Laboratory has an agreement which allows specimens to be examined in emergency at the West Suffolk General Hospital.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The ambulance facilities for the whole County of West Suffolk were considered during the year at a Conference attended by representatives of all the Local Authorities and of the British Red Cross Society. It was intimated that additional Red Cross Ambulances would be stationed in the County, and that a larger measure of co-ordination, through the Red Cross Centre at Bury St. Edmunds, would ensure that these facilities proved adequate.

After the suspension of Civil Defence, no suitable ambulance for the transport of Scabies Cases was available during 1945, consequently, unless patients were able to make their own transport arrangements, treatment of such cases was suspended. At the Conference referred to above, it was agreed to recommend that an ambulance for Scabies cases be purchased by the County Council and be stationed at St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, for the service of all the District Councils using that centre for Scabies treatment.

Infectious Diseases cases are removed by the ambulance provided by the Ipswich County Borough Council to whose Isolation Hospital our cases are admitted.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. The Local Nursing Associations, which are financed partly by contributory scheme, partly by voluntary contributions, and partly by County Council grants, carry out this work through their nurses who are residing in the villages of Brettenham, Bideston, Elmsett, Kersey, Groton and Lavenham, whilst some parishes on the periphery are served by nurses residing at Hadleigh and Stoke-by-Nayland.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. } These continued as in the
(e) HOSPITALS. } previous year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. The Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a plan for a piped supply of water to all parishes in the District. This comprehensive scheme will be co-ordinated with that of our neighbouring authorities. Although the Council's efforts in the past to supply villages with piped water supplies are commendable among records of rural district councils, there can be no doubt that a comprehensive scheme will be vastly superior to the multitude of small schemes which were previously created, as these many schemes do not supply every village in the area, and moreover, they have many administrative and technical drawbacks. Open water-towers have proved attractive roosting places for birds, and this has led to bacteriological and parasitical infection of water supplies on occasion. Trouble has been experienced with the iron content of some of these sources, so much so that the Lavenham and Brettenham supplies have had softening abandoned, as the base in the softener had been rendered ineffective by the action of iron.

Visits to many parts of the District have served to confirm the belief that agricultural labourers and their families, who will probably be irreplaceable, will leave the District unless they are given suitable homes with reasonable amenities such as a piped water supply and modern sanitation. It is, therefore, hoped that a high degree of priority of labour and material will shortly be given to the measures intended to be promoted by the Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944.

During 1945 there were 25 additional premises connected to the water mains, 24 being for domestic supplies.

18.9% of the houses in Cosford are on a public piped water supply, and a further 18.7% are within 200 feet of standpipes, the numbers being 586 and 579 houses respectively.

Samples of water, from two existing bores in the neighbourhood, were submitted to chemical analysis in order to assess the quality of water likely to be found on sinking the bores for the contemplated comprehensive scheme.

During the year 66 samples of water were submitted to bacteriological examination and they gave the following results:

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Suspicious.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Samples from Public Bored Piped Supplies	18	13	3	2
Samples from other sources	48	12	9	27

Warnings and instructions as to future use were given where necessary.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. 14 new drains were inspected, and 27 cesspools emptied during the year.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. It is realised that many people in the District, particularly in the Lavenham Brent Eleigh area, have been long-suffering with regard to the condition of rivers and streams. Crude sewage has given rise to noxious odours and nuisances, with consequent annoyance and danger to public health, in the stream and river beds. The position has been much easier to recognise than to alleviate, but with the advent of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944 the Council have sought the advice and guidance of a sewerage consultant, and they hope that adequate grants and sufficient priority of labour and materials will allow them to rectify the position.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. A twice weekly collection of Night Soil is carried out at Lavenham, Bildeston and Boxford.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. The Council have been mindful of the difficulties experienced by the inhabitants of the District in disposing of their household refuse. These difficulties are not confined only to the more built up or urban parishes, but present themselves also in the rural parishes as unsightly accumulations, fouling of ditches and multiplication of rodent and insect pests. The adoption of a Public Cleansing Scheme, together with a service for the clearance of cesspools was thoroughly explored during 1945 and the details supplied. This Scheme has subsequently been commenced throughout the District since June 1946.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following particulars of sanitary work during 1945 have been supplied to me by Mr. Taylor:-

Number of Inspections or Visits.

Houses under the Public Health Act	23
" " " Housing Acts	586
Tents, vans, sheds.	3
Factories.	7
Shops.	8
Cowsheds & Dairies.	16
Butcher's premises.	4
Water Samples	68
Dumps & tips	6
After Infectious Disease	5
Miscellaneous	111
Salvage	6
Food preparing premises	22
Re-inspections.	214
Slaughterhouses, meat inspection.	0
Schools.	12
	<u>1091</u>
	<u>=====</u>

Factory Act, 1937.

10 visits to Factories were made.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES. 8 visits were paid to inspect heating, lighting and ventilation arrangements.

(v) CAMPING SITES. 3 visits to camping sites were made.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.) No
(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.) change.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. Nil.

4. SCHOOLS. The water, washing and sanitary arrangements were inspected during 12 visits.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	504
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	609
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	474
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	477
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	90
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	359

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.

36

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders were made	1
(b) Undertakings accepted not to relet for human habitation	0
(c) Undertakings accepted to repair in specified time	0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year	9
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	12
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	54
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	23
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil.

The position with regard to house building in the District at the end of 1945 was that the Council had possession of two sites and negotiations were proceeding for the purchase of 19 further sites. No sites were under development, no tenders had been approved by the Ministry of Health, no houses had been erected, and no temporary houses were allotted.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. The number of Registered Cowkeepers and Dairymen in the District at the end of 1945 was 113. In addition, 4 Dairies were registered. 16 visits were paid to Cowsheds and Dairies, out of which no action arose.

Local Authorities' interest and progress in this work is hindered by the intention to transfer these functions to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Centralised slaughtering has taken regular killings out of the District.

Small quantities of canned foods and fish were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(c) <u>ADULTERATION, ETC.</u>	}	NO CHANGE
(d) <u>CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.</u>		
(e) <u>NUTRITION.</u>		
(f) <u>SHELL-FISH (Molluscan)</u>		
(g) <u>WATER-CRESS.</u>		

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases among the civilian population notified during the year:-

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1945.

	Total Cases Noti- fied.	Age in years.													Adm. to Hosp.	Deaths.
		-1	1	2	3	4	5	6 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 & over.		
Scarlet Fever.	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough.	49	3	4	9	9	5	5	11	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	1	-	-
Measles.	56	2	3	2	3	-	6	18	16	2	3	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	4	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	128	7	8	11	13	5	12	31	19	2	9	4	6	1	3	6
Infective Jaundice.	12	2	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	3	1	1	-	1	-	-

93 children (78 age 0-4 years and 15 age 5-14 years) completed the course of Diphtheria Immunisation during 1945. It is estimated that by the end of 1945, 43% of children under 5 years of age, and 92% of children between 5 and 15 years of age had completed the Diphtheria Immunisation course.

As has been previously noted lack of transport facilities curtailed the treatment of Scabies cases to those able to provide their own transport, nevertheless, during 1945 58 cases of Scabies were treated.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

NEW CASES

DEATHS.

Age Periods.	Respiratory. Non-Respiratory.				Respiratory. Non-Respiratory.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
25-34	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
35-44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-54	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
55-64	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1	7	2	1	-	2	-	-

53 cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, Respiratory Male 16, Female 19, and Non-Respiratory Male 8, Female 10.

